

1 IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of use of water-dilutable condensation resins **AB** as dispersing agents for pigments, comprising mixing the said pigments and the said condensation resins **AB** to prepare pigment concentrates wherein in the case of inorganic pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 40 g to 70 g of inorganic pigment, from 5 g to 20 g of the condensation resin **AB**, up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent; wherein in the case of organic pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 20 g to 40 g of organic pigment, from 5 g to 40 g of the condensation resin **AB**, and up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent; and wherein in the case of carbon black pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 15 g to 30 g of carbon black, from 10 g to 30 g of the condensation resin **AB**, up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent, wherein the condensation resins **AB** have an acid number of from 20 mg/g to 180 mg/g and are obtainable by condensation at a temperature of from 100 °C to 220 °C under formation of water which escapes at the reaction temperature, of components **A** containing acid groups and having an acid number of from 30 mg/g to 240 mg/g, which are copolymers of olefinically unsaturated monomers which monomers comprise monomers **A1** which contain acid groups and are chosen from alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acids

having 3 to 13 carbon atoms which are selected from the group consisting of acrylic and methacrylic acid, crotonic and isocrotonic acid, vinyl acetic acid, 3-propylacrylic acid, and 2-octenoic acid, and monoalkyl esters of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical, monomers A2 which are free of acid groups and are selected from the group consisting of alkyl esters of monobasic alpha, beta-unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids having 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the acid component and 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl component; the dialkyl esters of alpha,beta-unsaturated aliphatic dicarboxylic acids having 4 to 8 carbon atoms in the acid component and 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl component; the nitriles of the acids mentioned; the hydroxyalkyl esters of the monobasic alpha,beta-unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids mentioned having 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the acid component and 2 to 20 carbon atoms in the hydroxyalkyl component, also including oligo-oxyalkylene glycol monoesters having a number-average degree of polymerisation of from 2 to 50, the alkylene groups of which are selected from the ethylene and 1,2-propylene groups and mixtures thereof; and the vinylaromatics and the vinyl esters of saturated aliphatic linear and branched monocarboxylic acids having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, the monomers A2 being employed in mass fractions of from 67 % to 90 %, based on the mass of the monomer mixture of A1 and A2; A2 and monomers A3 which are mono- or polyunsaturated fatty acids having from 14 to 30 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups or esters thereof with aliphatic ~~alcohol~~alcohols having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, which monomers A3 are present in the monomer mixture of A1, A2, and A3 in a mass fraction of up to 50 %, on the one hand, and hydrophobic polyesters B ~~made from~~ obtained by polycondensation of aliphatic monobasic and dibasic carboxylic acids B2 having from four to forty carbon atoms, and dihydric aliphatic linear, branched or cyclic alcohols B1 having from two to twenty carbon atoms, the said polyesters B containing

hydroxyl groups and having a hydroxyl number of from 20 mg/g to 300 mg/g and a number-average molar mass M_n of from 500 g/mol to 5,000 g/mol, and the mass fraction of component **A** in the reaction mixture for the synthesis of the condensation resins **AB** is 30 % to 90 % and that of component **B** is 70 % to 10 %, with the proviso that the sum of the mass fractions of the two components always gives 100 %, and wherein the aliphatic monobasic acids are fatty acids.

2. to 5. (cancelled)

6. (original)

The method of use of claim 1, characterised in that the condensation resins **AB** are neutralised and dispersed in water before the mixing with pigments.

7. (cancelled)